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## BOOK NOTICES.

*Actual Africa; or, The Coming Continent. A Tour of Exploration.*  
*By Frank Vincent. With Map and over One Hundred Illustrations.* 8vo. New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1895.

With this volume of 500 pages, Mr. Vincent brings to a close the work of twenty-five years dedicated to a full and systematic tour of the globe. Fifteen of these years were spent in actual travel, as follows: One in the great islands and archipelagoes; two in the United States and British America; three in Europe; three in Asia; three in Central and South America; and three in Africa.

It is needless to add that Mr. Vincent travelled for the love of it, that he was interested in all the sights he saw, and that his book is a record of real and vivid impressions. He tells his story in an unaffected way, and he treats his reader with respect.

The illustrations are nearly all good.

*Distribution of the Magnetic Declination in Alaska and Adjacent Waters for the year 1895, with one Chart. A report by C. A. Schott, Assistant (U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Bulletin No. 34.)* 8vo. Washington, 1895.

Up to the year 1892 it was believed that in south-eastern Alaska, and even as far south as the State of Washington, the direction of the magnetic needle was either stationary, or moving slightly to the westward; but observations made since that time at Sitka and Fort Wrangell, at Seattle and Tacoma, and the discussion of observations made at Esquimalt, Vancouver Island, between the years 1858 and 1892, establish the fact of an increasing easterly declination for those points and the adjacent regions. The observations of 1889 and 1890 at Fort Yukon, in the interior, showed a declination decreasing by a few minutes per annum, in accord with the easterly decline along the shores of Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean.

The chart exhibits the isogonic curves for 1895, constructed by the analytical method.

*Die Länder des Islâm nach Chinesischen Quellen, von Prof. Dr. Friedrich Hirth. 1. (Supplément au Volume V du "T'oung-Pao.")* 8vo. Leiden, 1894.

This first part of Dr. Hirth's work has had the advantage of revision and annotation by Dr. M. J. de Goeje, the distinguished